

in Washington, DC, this coming May. Nominated by LaSalle Elementary School, Alexandra has collected and delivered more than 1,200 bundles of baby clothing, blankets, diapers, and other supplies over the past five years for infants born to needy single and teen-age mothers.

Karva has been named a Distinguished Finalist by the program's judges, and will receive a bronze medallion for her outstanding volunteer work. Karva collected 25 cartons of school supplies and \$3,000 to purchase computers for orphans attending a vocational training school in India.

I am proud of the work accomplished by Alexandra and Karva, and I commend them for taking an active role in their communities. They have demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and they deserve our sincere admiration and respect. Their actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

HONORING THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Legacy Foundation, a national organization dedicated to helping young people reject tobacco and Americans quit smoking. The foundation recently celebrated its fifth anniversary and I am proud that this organization has chosen our Nation's Capital as its home base.

Forty-seven million Americans smoke, but tobacco is not an equal opportunity killer. Forty years ago, the well educated and affluent smoked more, but the 21st century smoker is typically lower income and less educated. Today, the negative impact of tobacco-related disease disproportionately affects the poor and ethnic or cultural minorities.

For the last 2 fiscal years, the District of Columbia ranked last among the States in tobacco prevention spending. This is exactly why Congress must support the Metro D.C. Call Center, as well as innovative and results-oriented programs like the American Legacy Foundation's truth[®] campaign, Circle of Friends and Great Start. The Metro D.C. Call Center and programs such as truth[®] do help DC residents reject tobacco and pursue healthier lifestyles.

The American Legacy Foundation was created out of the Master Settlement Agreement put forth by our Nation's attorneys general, but under the terms of the agreement, the American Legacy Foundation received its last payment earlier this year. This dramatic reduction of resources jeopardizes all of the successes the foundation has achieved.

That's why I would like to ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the American Legacy Foundation and its groundbreaking programs, and pledge our continued support for this vital organization.

HONORING TRENT TOUCHSTONE OF THE U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) in North Texas who has served with distinction. Supervisory Criminal Investigator Trent Touchstone has achieved a reputation within the law enforcement community as a professional manager who understands that training and agency coordination are the cornerstones of successful law enforcement operations.

During Mr. Touchstone's tenure with the USMS, this dedicated public servant has coordinated the location and apprehension of violent offenders among more than two dozen law enforcement agencies. Trent is responsible for the development and supervision of the Northern District of Texas' Special Response Team, which supports other law enforcement agencies in high-threat arrest operations, assists with their tactical training, and participates in multi-agency law enforcement competitions.

Trent was also instrumental in building the USMS Northern District of Texas' (N/TX) Training Facility. Since the N/TX Training Facility opened its doors, more than 1,100 state and local officers from 98 law enforcement agencies have trained at the facility. Supervisor Touchstone has also developed training films for Deputy U.S. Marshals and Court Security Officers depicting many dangerous situations they may encounter.

I am pleased to join Mr. Touchstone's colleagues in congratulating him on receiving the USMS Distinguished Service Award. His tireless devotion to public service has been an asset to the law enforcement community in North Texas and the citizens they protect.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I voted in favor of the Congressional Black Caucus substitute amendment, the Blue Dog substitute and the Democratic substitute. None of these budget resolutions is perfect, but all are improvements over the Republican budget.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF RANDY HICKS

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Randy Hicks on the occasion of his retirement from BASF Corporation after twenty-seven dignified years of employment.

Serving as the Communication Manager since 2001, Mr. Hicks has shown tremendous dedication and leadership throughout his long-lasting employment. He began his career in the Marine Corps and served two years of duty in Vietnam. In 1968, after departing from the Marines, he worked for Ford Motor Company in Wyandotte while attending Wayne State University and studying business administration. Mr. Hicks began his employment at the BASF Corporation as a Human Resource Manager before becoming the Communication Manager.

In addition to working at BASF Corporation, Mr. Hicks finds many ways to channel his supportive energy into the community. A past Chairman of the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber and Detroit Heritage River Business Committee, he serves on the Board of Wyandotte Federal Credit and Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital. He also has invested his time and effort into the Board of the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance Workforce Development, the City of Wyandotte Police and Fire Commission, and the Advisory Panel of Wayne County Community College.

I am personally indebted to Randy Hicks for the support and active role he played in turning the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge from a dream into a reality. Randy understood immediately the long-term and lasting benefits the Refuge would create and with his support, we actively built both a Refuge and a constituency. As a result of Randy's involvement the BASF Corporation has put a couple of parcels of property into the Refuge and hopes to add others.

As Mr. Hicks enters his retirement years, I would like to extend my best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable future. I would like to thank him for all of his hard work and commitment to BASF Corporation and the Downriver community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that my colleagues join me in commending Randy Hicks for leadership in both his corporation and community, as we celebrate his twenty-seven years of dedication to the BASF Corporation.

RURAL JOB LOSS

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today the Congressional Rural Caucus held a forum on job losses in rural America. This is a critical issue in my district and in rural districts across the country. I would like to submit my comments on this issue for the RECORD.

I represent Michigan's 1st congressional district—the most rural district in Michigan. My constituents are all too familiar with job loss. Michigan has an unemployment rate of 7.6 percent—well over the national average. There are areas in my district where the unemployment rate actually exceeds 12 percent. 12 percent!

Since January 2001, 2.8 million manufacturing jobs have been lost across the country, 128,900 in Michigan alone. That is a loss of 1 out of every 6 factory jobs. In Michigan manufacturing is the engine of economic growth for our state—so you can see why the impact of rural job loss has been particularly devastating.

Manufacturing jobs seem to be heading out of Michigan to Mexico in droves. Recently, a refrigerator manufacturer, Electrolux, announced it is closing its doors and relocating to Mexico, costing us another 2,700 Michigan jobs. And just yesterday, Johnson Controls Inc., an automotive supplier in Holland, Michigan, announced its plans to move almost 900 jobs to Mexico.

We all know the problem, but what about a solution? We need to fix our international tax law that gives incentives to companies for shipping jobs overseas through tax credits and tax deferrals.

We need to fully fund programs like the Manufacturing Extension Partnership that has successfully helped small manufacturers to modernize and stay competitive in the global marketplace. This program is essential to rural economic growth. But the Administration has proposed cutting it by 60 percent. That makes no sense when this country is hemorrhaging jobs.

For example, I know that MEP has directly helped a number of companies in my district including Jacquart Fabric Products with 100 workers in Ironwood.

Last year, my Democratic colleagues from Michigan and I proposed the H.E.L.P. initiative to assist in turning the economy around and getting people back to work. H.E.L.P. focuses on employee healthcare and pension issues, as well as leveling the international playing field, and supporting partnerships with states, businesses, and employees which promote research and development.

In many of the communities in my district, hospitals and schools are among the largest employers. We need to keep hospitals open, and attract health care providers. We need to provide our rural schools with much needed tools such as broadband access and Internet classes. We need to attract small businesses. And we need to expand services for our seniors and veterans.

Unfortunately, I don't believe that the current budget proposals recently passed by the House and Senate are going to help get the 8 million jobless in our country back to work. We have a lot of work to do to jump start the economy.

I am glad the voices of our rural communities are being heard today. I look forward to hearing your recommendations on how to best address the problem of job loss in rural America.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF NICHOLAS P. DINAPOLI, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicholas DiNapoli on the occasion of his 80th birthday. The son of Thomas "Pete"

DiNapoli and Jeanette DiNapoli, Nick DiNapoli was born on April 6th, 1924, in Roslyn Heights, New York. He and his sister Tina attended Roslyn Public Schools and Nick was graduated from Roslyn High School in 1942.

From 1942 until 1953, Nick was an active member of the Roslyn Highlands Volunteer Fire Department and from 1943 until 1946 he served his country in the United States Army Air Corps, 4th Air Force, where he attained the rank of Corporal.

On September 5th, 1948, after returning from his service in World War II, Nick married Adeline Abbondandolo, also of Roslyn Heights, at St. Mary's Church where as a child he had been an altar boy. The newly married couple lived on Carlyle Place in Roslyn Heights until, on an especially proud day in 1953, they moved into the house they had built at 52 Coventry Avenue in Albertson.

It was around this time that Nicholas DiNapoli began working for the New York Telephone Company, where he rose from splicer's helper to splicer in 1948 and was eventually promoted to foreman in 1969. He served as Maintenance Supervisor, Auditor and Acting Manager before retiring in 1985 with 40 years of proud service.

Nick's children, Thomas Peter, born in 1954, and James, born in 1955, have been a constant source of pride. When his sons were growing up, Nick participated in many of their activities and became involved as an adult leader in the Albertson Little League and Troop 481 of the Boy Scouts of America. He attended ball games as well as camping and fishing trips with his sons and their friends. Tom is now the Assemblyman from the 16th Assembly District and James is the Deputy Chief of the Department of Public Safety for the New York State Courts. Some of Nick's fondest memories are of Tom's first election to the State Legislature in 1986 and of James' wedding to his wife Rachel in 1993.

Today Nick enjoys golfing, fishing and travel and he walks regularly to stay healthy. The joys of his life, however are his two grandchildren, Victoria Adeline, 9, and Nicholas James, 6. Though his beloved wife Adeline, passed away in 1991, Nick is lucky to have found a close companion in Kay Mensching. He is a member of St. Aiden's Roman Catholic Church in Williston Park and a member of American Legion Post 144. He has been a Legionnaire for over 50 years. Nick is also an Exempt and Honorary Member of the Roslyn Highlands Volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Nicholas DiNapoli all the best on the occasion of his 80th birthday and in recognition of his many years of service to the community, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me celebrating his outstanding life.

CHILDREN'S EXPRESS LANE TO HEALTH COVERAGE ACT

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to invite my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 4031, the Children's Express Lane to Health Coverage Act. This bipartisan measure, authored by Senator RICHARD LUGAR and I, will help States' efforts to enroll income-eligible children in the States Children's Health Insurance Program, commonly referred to as SCHIP.

As you know, despite gains in recent years, nearly 9 million children in the United States remain uninsured. Of those, nearly 7 million children are eligible for public health insurance coverage.

H.R. 4031, the Children's Express Lane to Health Coverage Act, builds on our successful legislation in the 106th Congress that provides States with the option of using the National School Lunch Program and the Women's Infants Children Program (WIC) to identify uninsured children eligible for benefits under the SCHIP and Medicaid programs.

Many States have used this cost-saving option successfully in promoting the well-being of income-eligible children.

While existing law allows children to be income-eligible for WIC based on their enrollment in the Medicaid program, the law does not give States adequate flexibility to make an income determination of eligibility for the Medicaid or SCHIP program based on an uninsured child's enrollment in WIC or another public program.

The Children's Express Lane to Health Coverage Act will give States the option of establishing that their Medicaid or SCHIP financial eligibility rules are satisfied when a family presents proof that their child is already enrolled in another program with comparable income guidelines.

Mr. Chairman, the public is well served when Federal means-tested public programs are able to improve administrative efficiency and coordination, as well as reduce unnecessary bureaucracy.

Moreover, uninsured children are well served when their enrollment in a nutrition-based or other means-tested program serves as a gateway to health coverage.

My colleagues, money alone will not solve America's health care challenges. We must maximize our existing resources by being more creative and aggressive in our outreach efforts and making it easier for families to tap into these benefits. We all know that children who do not get routine, preventative health care will not reach their full potential. We simply cannot afford to put our children at that disadvantage.

I urge you to become a cosponsor of this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.